2508 E. Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

p. (719) 471-4429 | f. (719) 471-3293 | www.YourPrideCenter.org

Advocacy. Resources. Support.

Be Free. Be You.

December 15, 2008

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As this exciting year draws to a close, it's time to report on the positive impact made by Your Pride Center here in the Pikes Peak region and statewide in 2008. As we look over last year's progress, it's also important to reflect on our major goals for 2009:

- **Political Advocacy & Community Mobilization –** This year, we took the opportunity to leap ahead, and start working towards building our community as a strong voting bloc in the Pikes Peak region. We took a strong stand against two state ballot measures that would have turned back the clock on reproductive rights and affirmative action; both measures failed. We conducted a voter survey at Pride, held a candidate and issue forum in October, and got 225 voter pledges for the November elections – All of this exciting work has prepared us well for the future. In addition, the Center has taken an important step this year by hosting the monthly ***Colorado Springs' GLBT Organizations Roundtable*** which is building and strengthening our community in ways we didn't even imagine. ***Looking Ahead****: In 2009, we will focus on the city elections in April; passing an Equal Opportunity Ordinance for Colorado Springs; and continuing to advocate for LGBT interests at the Human Relations Commission discussion group. Your Pride Center will be the driving force behind making the LGBT community a recognized voting bloc, and a continual voice for equality for all people.*

- **Community Health & Victim Services.** Your Pride Center has become a leader in health issues affecting our community. With the help of our partners, we established the Pikes Peak LGBT Health Consortium; hired a Health Navigator/Victim Advocate and a Community Outreach Associate; provided referrals for breast and cervical cancer screenings for over 100 women through the Women's Wellness Connection; and provided dozens of free, confidential HIV tests through our HIV Prevention Project. Our integrated program of health is so successful, we were even asked to present our model at a statewide conference for health care professionals just this past November. Truly, Your Pride Center has taken innovation to the next level to benefit our community. In line with our health programming, our partnership with the Colorado Anti-Violence Program has allowed us to ensure we provide quality and effective services to victims of discrimination, harassment, hate crimes and domestic violence. ***Looking Ahead:*** *In 2009, our health staff will expand our outreach to communities of color (including learning Spanish!), and to youth and aging populations. In addition, we'll be working with school districts and colleges to ensure LGBT students and faculty are protected by systems and policies.*

- **Networking and Events.** Through events like PrideFest and the Community Awards Ball, Your Pride Center is the place for GLBT people and our allies to connect with each other and strengthen our community. With our Rainbow Pages business directory and NetCoRe--the business networking group--we are building a base of support from gay-owned and allied businesses. Seventeen Center-sponsored groups provide social outlets and support for over 300 of our members. ***Looking Ahead:*** *In 2009, our new Business and Events Associate will leverage corporate support to gain us greater visibility in the community at large, and we will put more resources into developing and sustaining our social and support groups.*

2508 E. Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909

p. (719) 471-4429 | f. (719) 471-3293 | www.YourPrideCenter.org

Advocacy. Resources. Support.

Be Free. Be You.

- **Resources and Information.** Our drop-in Center, open 20 hours a week, provides a 3000-book library, internet café, and coffee lounge. Our Help Line responds to 2,500 requests for information each year - from parents of gay kids just coming out, GLBT families looking to get connected with community, resource agencies seeking guidance in serving GLBT clients, and many others. Our weekly email newsletter, LunchBreak, goes to over 1.400 recipients with community-wide news, information and events. ***Looking Ahead:*** *In 2009, we will re-design our website and LunchBreak newsletter, and focus on ensuring the quality of services we provide exceed our community's expectations.*

There's more, of course; too much to put into one letter. Ultimately, this past year has been marked by important milestones, and has laid a foundation to continue our forward momentum. And of course, none of it would have happened without you. As I close out this year-end letter, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for enabling the Center to serve our community. Together, we are making change.

In Pride -

Robert Beam
President
Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center
- Your GLBT Pride Center

PS! *Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't also take this opportunity to ask for your support as we move forward. Even if you never visit the Center, we're working to advance civil and social equality, ensure that we have a place at the table when decision-makers meet to discuss policy, and provide a safe space just in case you, or someone you know, ever need us. Through a generous grant from the Gill Foundation, any new or increased donations will be matched dollar for dollar. To make a year-end gift, please visit http://yourpridecenter.org/donate.php, or call David at (719) 471-4429, to begin or increase your investment in equality today.*